

Tennessee Army Guard Faces Largest Deployment Since Desert Storm

Nashville - More than 1,700 Tennessee Army National Guard soldiers from across the state are currently serving on active duty both at home and abroad.

“This is certainly the largest deployment of Tennessee troops since Desert Shield/Storm.” Stated Randy Harris, Director of Public Affairs. “Morale is great in every unit I have visited, they are ready to get started, get the job done, and get back home.”

Deployed units stretch from Memphis in the west to Elizabethton in the east.

One of the first units activated is from West Tennessee, the 3rd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery from Memphis and Covington. These “cannon crewmen” are currently serving as Force Protection at Fort Brag, NC, and Forts Eustice, Monroe, Story, and Lee in Virginia.

From the “Upper Eastern” part of the state, the 776th Maintenance Company from Elizabethton moved on January 30th to Fort Campbell, KY for final mobilization training.



CW2 Glenn Johnson briefs members of the 1174th Transportation Company during SRP activities at Milan Training Center.

Completing the roster of mobilized units are: C Company, 46th Engineer Battalion, Paris; the 777th Maintenance Company, Nashville and Lewisburg; the 267th Military Police Company, Dickson; the 269th Military Police Company, Murfreesboro; the 730th Quartermaster Company, Johnson

City; Company B, 230th Engineer Battalion, Huntingdon and Lobelville; Detachment 1, Company C, 230th Engineer Battalion, Camden; the 146th Medical Company (Air Ambu-



CPT John Mark Windle provides legal council to SGT Lee during the SRP.

lance), Alcoa; and the 1174th Transportation Company, Dresden and Newbern.

National Guard units are deployed when the President and the Secretary of Defense through the Department of Defense identifies that a unit has the capability to perform a mission required by DoD.

“We are trained, ready and committed to do whatever the National Command Authority deems necessary.” Stated Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, Tennessee’s Adjutant General. “We have proved time and time again that the Tennessee National Guard can operate hand in hand with our active component counterparts to get the job done.”

“The soldiers and airmen of Tennessee are true Volunteers in the finest sense of the word. They are professionals.”

A complete listing of units activated can be found on the Tennessee Military Department web site at <http://www.tnmilitary.org>.

"We pave the way!"

By: PFC Matthew Zier
Det. 1/133rd MPAD

This is the slogan for the 155th Engineer Company. The 155th, which is divided into two components, with Waverly being headquarters and maintenance and its detachment, Erin, the asphalt and quarry workers. The main mission for the 155th is to provide construction support, equipment, and personnel for rock crushing, bituminous (or asphalt) paving and major heavy construction projects such as highways, storage and airfields.

"The 155th has quite a history," stated Sergeant First Class Eddie Grice. "Since I joined this unit in 1985, we have deployed to Panama, Desert Storm and Kosovo. Stateside, we were activated during the major ice storm of 1996." According to SFC Grice, this activation by the governor of Tennessee was to provide support to local authorities and TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation) with manpower, front-end loaders, bulldozers and other equipment used for clearing the highways.

Throughout the years, this company has earned many awards, both state and federal. First Sergeant James McClain said they have received two Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Unit Citations. 1st Sgt. McClain also went on to say the 155th served during the Desert Shield/Storm operations, receiving a citation for December 1990 to June 1991.

"We have a strong family support system already in place." He went on to say that the biggest key in support is keeping the families informed of what the military can do

while their family member is activated.

"The overall morale of the unit is very high. They are anxious to go and do their job, and do it well."

One such high morale soldier is Staff Sergeant Thomas Page. Staff Sgt. Page has been with the Engineers in Waverly since 1981, but his military career did not start there. Staff Sgt. Page signed up for the Army back in 1968, attending Basic Training at Fort Campbell, Ky. From there, he went to Advanced Individual Training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. He then went to Fort Meade, Md. to the 18th Engineer Brigade and waited to be sent to Vietnam. Once in Vietnam, SSG Page worked on everything from trucks and other heavy equipment with the 299th Combat Engineers, to performing general aviation maintenance with the 263 Maintenance Company.

After returning home from Vietnam in January of 1971, SSG Page went to work at Trane Heating and Cooling factory in Clarksville, Tn. Being away from the military for six years, he decided to re-enlist into a Reserve Unit in Hopkinsville for a few months, deciding to transfer to the 3/109th Armor in Clarksville. He stayed there for three years as an M-60 tank driver and gunner.

It was then in 1981, when he heard from a friend at work about the Waverly unit. Staff Sgt. Page first started in the unit as a wrecker operator.

"First to leave, and always the last one to come in," recalled Page. He went on to say he did this until sometime after the unit returned from Desert Storm, upon which he changed from maintenance to a welder. Since he has so many years in service, he plans to stay until retirement.

"We pave the way!"

Soldier, Honor Graduate

Photo and story by: PFC Michael Cross
Det. 1/133rd MPAD

A local soldier from the 779th Maintenance Company, Centerville, TN arrived home from Advanced Individual Training (AIT) with honors.

The military occupational specialty of generator mechanic was awarded to Axelson.

"Competition was fierce among the soldiers," he said. Though training was tough, Axelson said, "I knew I was going to make it."

Axelson has been in the Tennessee Army National Guard for six months. However, he plans on staying in the National Guard for a long time. When asked what words of encouragement he would give to those who are new to the guard and have yet to go to basic training or AIT, he says,



"Prepare to have fun. Just go with it and have fun."

Axelson is the son of Lory and Corey Axelson of Dickson. He is engaged to be married later this year to Kaytie Ward also from Dickson.

Private Chris Axelson from Dickson, TN was named "Honor Graduate" from the U.S. Army Ordinance Center and School.

From Afghanistan to Centerville

Spec. Jim Boyd

Det. 1/133rd MPAD

Last year, a U.S. Army First Lieutenant led a detachment of soldiers to a combat zone in Afghanistan. Now, First Lieutenant Stacie Leake leads a platoon of Tennessee Army National Guard soldiers assigned to the 779th Maintenance Company in Centerville.

Lt. Leake had some concerns about being deployed to a combat zone. "I was a little nervous because I was leaving my husband. We had only been married about five months," Leake said. "That was a little bit of a shock."

Leake's family in Virginia was supportive of her deployment, but they were apprehensive. "My mother was concerned. But of course, she is going to be concerned. They were concerned but proud, I think."

their flak jackets and Kevlar." Leake said. "We got off of the C-17 [military aircraft] and everyone's walking around in soft caps and DCUs [desert uniforms] so we looked a little bit over-kill."

Leake's detachment's mission was to provide direct maintenance support to U.S. Forces and Special Forces units stationed in the area. The area is considered a combat zone because of the dangers of serving there. Enemy forces probed the base perimeter almost nightly. "There are several possibilities," Leake said, describing the probing forces. "It was either remnants of the al-Qaida, Taliban group or, there's just a lot of rebel factions." There were other dangers in serving in Afghanistan. "More of the issues we had were car-

normally repairs and maintains military equipment, and in a combat environment, can be called to send soldiers to the front lines to retrieve combat damaged equipment and bring it back for repair. If called into the current conflict, LT. Leake has confidence in her National Guard soldiers. "They would perform exceptionally well" Leake stated. We have a great Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant First Class Qualls. They're very professional, very proficient, they're great mechanics and great soldiers."

Along with her service in the Tennessee National Guard, Leake is currently studying for her Masters Degree in Education at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.



Photo by: Sgt. Walter VanOchten

**First Lieutenant Stacie Leake
Platoon Leader
779th Maintenance Company.**

LT. Leake arrived at Bagram Air Base in late March, leading her detachment of Fort Campbell maintenance soldiers. "I had all my soldiers put on



Map of the Middle East with focus on Bagram Airbase where First Lieutenant Leake led her detachment of soldiers.

Map courtesy of Global Security.org

bombs trying to get into the air base. That happened on a few occasions."

Leake came back from her combat duty specifically to take an assignment as a Tennessee Army National Guard Officer. She is currently serving as the Track Platoon Leader with the 779th Maintenance Company in Centerville. An Army maintenance unit

Photos From SRP 2003



Just a portion of the personnel files processed during a recent SRP in Milan.



MG Gus Hargett talks with soldiers from the 1174th Transportation Company.



A woman with blonde hair wearing a red sweater and a man in a grey hoodie are loading cardboard boxes into the bed of a blue pickup truck. They are in a parking lot with several other cars and trees in the background.

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Colonel Russ Cotney Named Assistant Adjutant General, Air

NASHVILLE - Major General Gus Hargett, The Adjutant General, recently announced the appointment of Colonel William R. (Russ) Cotney as the Assistant Adjutant General, Air, Tennessee National Guard.

An Alabama native, Colonel Cotney currently serves as the Commander of the 164th Airlift Wing, headquartered in Memphis. He is a graduate of Jacksonville State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Personnel Management. He received his Masters Degree in Public Administration from Auburn University in 1976.

Colonel Cotney received his commission through Officer Training

School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in August 1971, where he received his Pilot Wings. He has served as Flight Safety Officer and Examiner Pilot, and logged over 2,500 in the C-7A Caribou. Colonel Cotney transferred to the 164th Airlift Wing in 1982 and served as Pilot Standards Officer, 155th Airlift Squadron Commander, Operations Group Commander, and Vice Commander of the Wing.

Colonel Cotney is a Command Pilot with over 10,000 flying hours, logging over 2,500 hours in the C-130A and more than 2,500 hours in the C-141 aircraft. He currently serves as the Weapons System Chairman for the

Strategic Airlift Council for Air National Guard's Directorate Field Advisory Council.

Colonel Cotney formerly served as a Regional Air Movement Coordination Center Commander in Vicenza, Italy, and was responsible for the control of Bosnian airspace. During the past year, he has served in active duty status under Operation Enduring Freedom in Germany executing the European Strategic Intratheater Deployment Mission resupplying the Area of Operation for the Middle East. Colonel Cotney is married to the former Deborah Holder of South Pittsburg, TN and they have one daughter.

TOP 50 FAVORITE WAR MOVIES

By: PFC Nick Cole
133rd MPAD

Movies inspire feelings and emotions in us, and make us think about things we would not otherwise. War movies show how we can find hidden courage and learn to overcome our fears under the greatest of adversities. A recent survey lists the following as the top 50 war movies of all time.

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| 1. Patton | 18. Heartbreak Ridge | 35. Where Eagles Dare |
| 2. Platoon | 19. Halls of Montezuma | 36. 12 O'clock |
| 3. Saving Private Ryan | 20. The Alamo | 37. Das Boot |
| 4. Gettysburg | 21. The Patriot | 38. Paths to Glory |
| 5. The Longest Day | 22. We Were Soldiers | 39. Wings |
| 6. Windtalkers | 23. Rough Riders | 40. Which Way to the Front |
| 7. M*A*S*H | 24. Sgt. York | 41. The Fighting CB's |
| 8. Full Metal Jacket | 25. Glory | 42. The Flying Tigers |
| 9. Caine Mutiny | 26. Battle of the Bulge | 43. The Expendables |
| 10. 1941 | 27. Pork Chop Hill | 44. Hell Fighters |
| 11. The Green Berets | 28. Midway | 45. Red Badge of Courage |
| 12. Braveheart | 29. Enemy at the Gates | 46. The Flying Leathernecks |
| 13. The Dirty Dozen | 30. Thin Red Line | 47. Sands of Iwo Jima |
| 14. Good Morning Vietnam | 31. U-571 | 48. The Last Battalion |
| 15. Blackhawk Down | 32. Pearl Harbor | 49. The Guns of Navarone |
| 16. Apocalypse Now | 33. Courage Under Fire | 50. The Wild Bunch |
| 17. Hamburger Hill | 34. Tora, Tora, Tora | |

45th Civil Support Team Certified

*By Maj. Ken Jones
State Public Affairs Officer*

The Department of Defense announced on February 5, 2002 that the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team located in Smyrna is certified and fully operational.

The 45th CST is fully ready to assist civil authorities responding to a domestic weapon of mass destruction incident, and possesses the requisite skills, training and equipment to be proficient in all mission requirements.

The 45th CST is part of the five teams authorized in the National Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal 2001.

The unit is a joint unit consisting of both Tennessee Army and Air National Guard members. MAJ Charles Tilton of the Army National Guard commands the unit. The Deputy Commander is Maj David Smith of the Air National Guard.

The 45th Civil Support Team is a group of dedicated, highly trained

individuals who form a cohesive team that identifies potentially hazardous substances, assesses the risk to personnel, advises commanders, and facilitates DOD assets when needed.

The Civil Support Team works hand-in-hand with agencies such as Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security to provide assets to assist and protect the citizens of Tennessee.

This round of certifications brings the total number of teams in the nation to 30.

Counterdrug Division Receives National Award

*By Maj. Ken Jones
State Public Affairs Officer*

On February 6, 2003, the Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Division was named the recipient of the 1ST Annual Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America's National Guard Coalition Development Award.

Tennessee's Adjutant General, Maj Gen Gus Hargett will accept the award in Washington, D.C. on February 13, 2003.

The Community Anti-Drug Coalition consists of local law enforcement, health care, social services, education, government personnel, and faith community and citizens who have banded together to curtail drug activity and educate the public as to the dangers of drug abuse.

The National Guard is receiving the award for their assistance in providing drug threat presentations, leadership training, grant writing courses and various drug demand reduction

activities to assist in sustaining the momentum of local efforts in curtailing drug abuse.

The Counterdrug Division has played a key role in partnerships with the Tennessee Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Services and the Nashville Prevention Partnership to develop community anti-drug coalitions in Tennessee. During Fiscal Year 02, National Guard soldiers and airmen participated in 85 counties across Tennessee assisting community leaders in developing and sustaining efforts to increase drug awareness and lower the public demand for illicit drugs. Over 117,500 citizens were reached by efforts of the coalitions and National Guard during the period covered by the award.

"Our personnel are dedicated soldiers and airmen and have a true sense of duty and responsibility when conducting their mission," said Col Bruce Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff for Counterdrug. "It is indeed an honor to see their efforts recognized in such a national manner."

"I am very pleased and profoundly humbled by the Counterdrug Division winning this award," said Lt Col Robert Murphy, the Counterdrug Coalition Development Officer.

Maj Niki Gentry, Counterdrug Division Executive Officer and Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, said, "The Guard assists the community in sustaining the energy needed to make the coalition effective."

The Counterdrug Division is a joint organization made up of both Army and Air National Guard members. The unit has served the state of Tennessee since 1989 when President George H.W. Bush initiated Department of Defense support to curtail the trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs within the United States and around the globe.

